

to the utility of the claimed methods, and Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101 be withdrawn.

Rejection of claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 13 and 47-57 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

The Office Action alleges that claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 13 and 47-57 are not enabled by the specification. Claims 1-3, 54 and 56 have been canceled, and these rejections are moot. The remaining pending claims, 5-7, 9-11, 13, 47-53, 55 and 57-61, recite methods of diagnosing and monitoring either metastatic liver cancer or hepatocellular carcinoma in a patient. The Examiner acknowledges that the claims are enabled for methods of detecting specific types of liver cancer disclosed in the specification, *e.g.* hepatocellular carcinoma (see Office Action, page 5, first paragraph). Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all outstanding rejections and early notice of allowance to that effect.

**Except** for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

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